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Grand Lodge Bulletin

Editor S. CARL HECKBERT, P.G.M., Vermilion, Alberta

The Duties and Responsibilities of an Investigating Committee

By Bro. G. V. Macaulay, J. S. Foothills Lodge #174

M. W. Bro. Dwight L. Smith once said, "How well are we guarding the West Gate?" He feels that we are permitting too many to pass who can pay the fee and contribute little else. There are two tylers of this gate and the responsibility of guarding it should be shared equally. These Masons are the Sponsor and the Investigating Committee.

Our obligation to the new Mason begins the day he "approaches" the Lodge for an application form. (When did you last let your enthusiasm lead you into talking someone into applying?) He should not be left alone until he, himself, has determined that he can continue alone. Too often it has been said to the newly made Mason, "you get out of Masonry what you put into it". Very true, however, would you throw a drowning man a pamphlet on how to swim and then walk away? Of course not, yet we do it daily in Masonry.

M. W. Bro. David Rothstein felt that the time for questioning the petitioner was before the application was signed. He would begin by resolving to be the guide of the new Mason. Then he would have a heart to heart talk with the man. The questions asked would include:

1. Why do you want to become a Mason?
2. What benefits do you expect from membership?
3. Does membership in the so-called higher orders influence your decision to become a Mason?
4. Can you afford the initiation fees and the annual dues?
5. Do you expect the same type of activities in Masonry as in the service club?

Receiving suitable answers he would proceed to explain as much about the Craft as he could, being sure to emphasize that Masonry is not a charitable organization in the usual sense, but charity in the greater sense of giving oneself.

Once the sponsor is satisfied that the man is making an earnest request, it is the duty of the Investigating Committee to see that no unworthy person may be admitted to our fraternity. In fairness to all, the report should be fair and impartial. As M. W. Bro. Smith put it, "We cannot escape the fact that men judge Freemasonry by what they see walking down the street wearing a Masonic emblem, and if what they

see does not command their respect, then we need not expect them to seek our fellowship."

It is difficult to define the duties of the Committee with any clarity. The necessary direction of one investigation does not dictate that of another. Yet we can be more specific that at present. The following list may help as a guide.

1. Visit the petitioner in his home.
2. Ask his wife to stay. There is nothing that can be told the petitioner that cannot also be told his wife. Ask her if she has any objections to his joining Masonry.
3. It should be made clear that Masonry is not a benefit society.
4. Do not be afraid to ask personal questions. Be as rigidly strict as if the petitioner were seeking admission to your home.

In "Masonry Defined" Article No. 198 a summation of qualities to watch for when investigating an applicant is given.

The Internal Qualifications:

1. The applicant must come of his own free will
2. He must not be influenced by mercenary motives
3. His application must be made in consequence of a favourable opinion of the Institution.
4. He has resolved to conform with cheerfulness to the established usages and customs of the Fraternity.

The external qualifications are based on five objectives; moral, religious, physical, mental and political. These can best be described by referring to the ritual.

At the 1963 Inter-Provincial Conference at Banff, M. W. Bro. Collett drew a comparison of our investigation to that of certain service clubs. He stated that after acceptance several prominent members spent a whole evening discussing the inner workings of the organization with the new member. He concluded by saying; "Now, I think that this is what the Committee of Inquiry should do and I think that if you get four good Masons to sit down for an evening with the applicant and talk about the Masonic Order, what it is, what it means, and so on, that the Committee will find out more about the man in this discussion than it will if it inquires into his personal life as is usually done".

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Grand Master's Column Within The Craft in Alberta

We are now entering the portals of a New Year. No doubt men and Masons by the hundred will be considering new resolutions to make. New resolutions, that, if properly kept, would be a force for good in the life of the individual and would thereby be a direct benefit to society. Too often New Year resolutions are made only to be broken. Are we better or worse for the experience? Could it not be likened to the father who asked his two sons to perform a service for him. One son said he would do it, and did not. The other said he would not, but did. Which of the two sons was more guilty? In like manner, then, is an individual not jeopardizing his own peace of mind by making New Year resolutions that might be broken, or, would he be better off by not making them so there would be none to break? How great and how noble is the man with an honest desire in his heart to become a better and greater individual who will not only make a new resolution but will resolve to keep it.

"This above all; to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man." When Shakespeare framed those words he gave man one of the greatest challenges of mortal life. It takes a bit of doing. Many attempt but few accomplish and pretence will never shield a man from the piercing sword of conscience.

Resolutions are the guide lines that man, when in a reflective mood, sets up for himself, to guide his steps around the pitfalls of life. The quality of the resolutions is going to be determined by the nature of man's basic character, his general attitude and whether or not he wants to make the best out of life. Many a man, who in all honesty would like the best gifts that life has to offer, has failed because of his inability to exercise a certain restraint on his appetite for sensual pleasures. Too often members of the Masonic fraternity are not willing to be guided by our basic philosophy and therefore remain in a state of fear, anxiety and insecurity.

As your Grand Master it is not my purpose to make new rules and regulations for the guidance of the Craft, but, rather, to encourage every Mason in our Grand Jurisdiction to resolve that this coming year his mode of living and his code of ethics will be in accordance with the ancient principles of the Craft. Outlooks will change, learning will increase, which in turn will increase our knowledge and stature. Herein is the potential for the greatest amount of happiness and the greatest amount of contentment. This, my Brethren, is my earnest desire for each and every one this coming year. May your fondest hopes and aspirations be fulfilled. Then, for all of us, this truly will be a **HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

A PRAYER

*"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change —
the courage to change things I can;
And the wisdom to know the difference".*

SHARON LODGE MARKS UNUSUAL EVENT

At the meeting of Sharon Lodge, No. 157, Picture Butte, in June, the Officers of the Lodge conferred a Fellow Craft Degree and it is notable that five fathers and their respective sons were in attendance.

R. W. Bro. O. Price, P.D.D.G.M., of Irricana Lodge, accompanied his son, W. Bro. Vern Price, Past Master of Sharon Lodge; W. Bro. Arthur McIlroy, Worshipful Master of Diamond City Lodge, returning a fraternal visit, was accompanied by his son, Bro. Earl McIlroy, Senior Warden of York Lodge No. 119; while W. Bro. Roy Handley, Past Master, celebrating his seventy-eighth birthday, watched his son Bro. Lester Handley, M.M., examine the candidate who was passed to the Fellow Craft Degree.

R. W. Bro. J. J. Watson, P.D.D.G.M., and a Charter Member of Sharon Lodge, assisted his son W. Bro. T. H. Watson, W.M., confer the Degree.

Bro. Mike Batychy, M.M., a proud father, joined in the welcome as his son, Bro. William Batychy, Entered Apprentice as he was passed to the Second Degree in the impressive ceremony.

Sharon Lodge, working in the York Rite, did a masterful job of passing this candidate, doubtless spurred on by the attendance of such an unusual gathering. The work was exceptionally well done and all present thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The presence of five fathers and sons is an indication that younger men take cognizance of the pleasures and privileges of Freemasonry enjoyed by their fathers before them.

AREA MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Dates have been set for Area Meetings as indicated below and members of the respective areas are cordially invited to make their plans so as to include attendance at these interesting and constructive assemblies. The chief paper to be presented and discussed will be titled — 'Resolved that the TRUE MASON THINKS'. Each of the meetings will be opened at 8 o'clock p.m. and close at 10 p.m. The dates are as follows:

- Saturday, March 11th —
Central Masonic Temple, Edmonton
- Wednesday, March 15th —
Masonic Temple, Red Deer.
- Thursday, March 16th —
Masonic Hall, Lethbridge.
- Saturday, March 18th —
Calgary Masonic Temple, Calgary.

A VISIT TO YELLOWKNIFE LODGE

On November 19th, a group of thirty-seven members of the Craft, representing some twenty Lodges throughout the Grand Jurisdiction of Alberta, boarded a Pacific Airlines aircraft in the early gray hours of the morning for a charter flight to Yellowknife for the purpose of paying a fraternal visit to that far north Lodge of fellowship. The group was headed by

the M. W. Grand Master, M. W. Bro. Gordon Towers and the trip organized by our Grand Secretary, M. W. Bro. Rivers.

After a pleasant and bump-free flight, the group reached the thriving northern town and was met by Bro. Ken Phillpot, Grand Master's representative in the North West Territories, and a number of other members of Yellowknife Lodge. Bro. Phillpot and those assisting him had a fine organization arranged and after being pleasantly housed in a wonderfully equipped hotel the group enjoyed a bus trip around the Town of Yellowknife and to the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company's mine, where it was explained that shafts had been sunk to a depth of 4700 feet and narrow gauge rail lines laid for some 64 miles to facilitate the hunt for gold. While a great deal of information was dispensed it was noted that no samples of the mine's production were passed around.

Promptly at six o'clock in the evening the Lodge was opened and the Grand Master and a number of Grand Lodge Officers were received. The Lodge Officers, headed by W. Bro. Gerry James, conferred the Third Degree on a quite evidently interested and accomplished candidate, the work being done with dignity and an effectiveness that spoke well for the intense interest and accomplishment of every single individual assisting with the Degree; it would be difficult to find anywhere, a Degree Team that might be considered more efficient than the Officers of the Lodge.

Following the closing of the Lodge the visitors were entertained in a large building apparently known as the company 'cook-house'; a delicious dinner being served. Bro. Ken Phillpot spoke feelingly of the appreciation of the members of Yellowknife Lodge for the visit of the 'Southerners' and his fine toast to Grand Lodge was responded to by R. W. Bro. Chas. Pinnell, Grand Senior Warden; the Grand Master spoke to the gathering and a most pleasant evening brought to a close.

Every one of the visitors found the Northern community of intense interest; a number toured the stores with a view to comparing prices of various commodities and found not too great difference, despite the fact that many supplies are taken to Yellowknife by air, rather than by other means of transportation, for quite obvious reasons. One of the Officers of the Lodge who had just recently moved from Inuvik, some 750 miles further north, stated that bread at that point sold for 80 cents per loaf while milk cost \$1.20 per quart.

The visiting Masons were greatly impressed with Yellowknife with its paved streets, water and sewer lines above ground, covered by a mound of earth and steam heated as a bulwark against extreme cold, and most of all by the intensely friendly welcome that was extended to all, not only by members of Yellowknife Lodge, but by residents generally, including those of Indian and Eskimo extraction. These people appear well clothed, of happy mien and their children are fortunate in having beautiful schools in which residence facilities are available at little or no cost to themselves. A new and splendid hospital is just starting to serve the needs of the community, while a new

gaol, presently nearing completion and having the appearance of a modern motel, will be utilized for the incarceration of those who choose to conduct themselves outside the law.

Yellowknife has only recently been named as the capital of the North West Territories and we venture to predict that the bustling town will effectively serve the needs of a wide area for a long time to come.

There is much that might be written about the fine community, the wonderfully friendly attitude of all with whom the visitor comes in contact and those who undertook the charter flight under the auspices of Grand Lodge will long remember a most pleasant experience.

BANFF SPRING WORKSHOP

Those Masons who attended the inaugural Banff Spring Workshop last spring will be pleased to know that plans are well underway for the second workshop scheduled for the mountain resort town and the fine facilities of the School of Fine Arts on April 14th, 15th and 16th.

The format of the assembly is to be similar to that of last year, except that suggestions made by many of those attending the meeting of 1965 have been incorporated, with a view to making this workshop even more effective than the last and to balance the time schedule to somewhat better advantage.

The weekend at Banff will cost only \$20.00, including room, board and registration, or \$21.50 if you arrive before 6 p.m. on Friday evening. More than one hundred members of the Craft have already registered and your registration should be made without delay in order to insure that there will be a place for you on arrival.

It is suggested that members desiring to attend, complete the reservation form shown herewith and mail it without delay to the Grand Secretary, Masonic Temple, 12th Avenue S.W., Calgary, together with deposit of \$5.00.

HERE IS YOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Only registration forms properly completed and signed accompanied by a cheque or money order for \$5.00 will be accepted.
It is not advisable to send cash
FEE NOT RETURNABLE AFTER MARCH 15, 1967

SECOND ALBERTA MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP

Name

last
first
initial

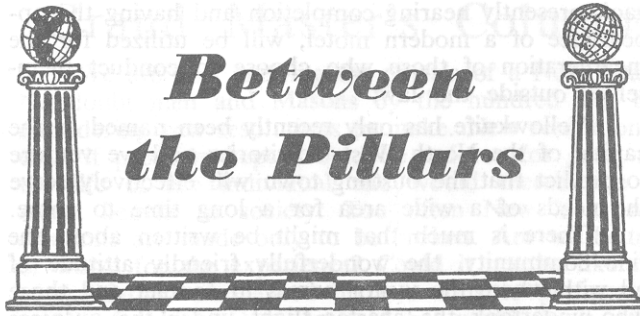
Address

Street
City or Town

Lodge No.

Office use only	
Receipt No.	Date
Accommodation	
Group No.	Signature

Please make cheques and money orders payable to:
MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP COMMITTEE



Between the Pillars

Let Us Plant Gardens

by Don A. Burton
Grand Master of Masons in Indiana

*Build ye houses and dwell in them; and plant gardens,
and eat of the fruit of them — JEREMIAH 29:5*

FREEMASONRY STANDS FOR citizenship of the highest order. It seeks to improve the community without active participation in campaigns or movements. It wages war only against the powers of darkness, ignorance, superstition and tyranny. Its grand aim is to teach those who join our ranks to take their places in society as responsible citizens, to the end that God may be glorified and His children may live together on earth as brothers.

These are the houses and gardens Freemasons should strive to build and plant for the nourishment of their souls.

For almost two years the line officers of our Grand Lodge have carried forward an intensive study of our Fraternity. A long-range program called the Decade Devoted to Freemasonry in Indiana has been laid out on the trestleboard. Its grand aim is to raise the sights and improve the standards of our Fraternity; to make every member aware of the dignity, honor and responsibility of being a Master Mason.

WHETHER THIS grand aim can be carried to the great heights for which we have hoped, depends much more upon the officers and members of our Lodges than it does upon the officers of Grand Lodge.

In imagination let us see where our Craft can be at the end of the decade ahead:

In ten years we can have at least 650 lodges in Indiana. Our membership can reverse its downward trend and begin a climb upward toward the 20,000 mark. Master Masons everywhere can display pride in being members of the Fraternity. Leadership and imagination at the local level can learn the lesson that a Mason's instruction only begins when he is raised to the Sublime Degree. New Masons can have meaningful and important work to carry forward. New ways can be found to locate and assimilate sojourning Masons. Electronic data processing can enable us to keep in close touch with every Mason in Indiana. Our ritual can adopt the latest techniques for reaching the minds of men, and incorporate modern methods for teaching and motivation; it can thus respond to the needs of the Master Mason of today.

Yet, the New Day for Freemasonry will not see a push-button Fraternity. In the New Day, no longer will the cry of the widow and the orphan be heard in vain. In the New Day, Lodges will actively seek out effective ways to extend the hand of fraternal assistance in every Masonic community. Freemasonry then will become a living and vital force in the lives of all who enter our portals.

We will have planted our gardens, eaten of the fruit and built the houses wherein our souls may dwell.

THAT IS WHAT the Decade Devoted to Freemasonry can do. It has started with a dream. Designs have been drawn on the trestleboard. Working tools have been placed in our hands. Significant progress has been made during this first year. Soon a new hand will be on the rudder of our Masonic ship — the hand of an interested, dedicated, devoted, intelligent Master Mason — a great Masonic leader. Under his leadership, and with your help, greater progress will be made. In time, Freemasonry will build better houses; it will plant more fruitful gardens.

Editor:

The potent words of the Grand Master of Indiana may well be construed to apply to the Masons of Alberta and of every other Jurisdiction. It would be well were we to heed them.

The Duties and Responsibilities (cont. from page 17)

There is little more that I can add. Remember that we do not expect perfection in an applicant. Yet he must possess a foundation on which to build and an intellect and character to grasp what Masonry has to offer. We are neither a reformatory nor a halo society. We are dedicated to Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

References:

1. Masonry Defined by Lippincott — Johnson 1925, Library reference 526.
2. Sixth Bi-ennial Conference of Grand and District Grand Lodges, Library reference 22-2-6.
3. 23rd Annual Inter-Provincial Conference of the Officers, 1963. Library reference 22-1-7.
4. Grand Lodge Bulletin, Vol. 29, Number 29, Page 28.
5. Grand Lodge Bulletin, Vol. 29, Number 8, Page 29.
6. Whither are we Travelling by M. W. Bro. Dwight L. Smith.

EVERY MASON HAS WORK TO DO

Masonry has always been intensely patriotic. The charge to a newly made Mason that he should be true to his government and just to his country is a very old one. In the countries of the world wherever freedom is prized, Masonry flourishes, and Masons always respond to the call of their country. Not all can fight on the field of battle, but all true Masons gladly do what they can, and they try to do something for those who do the actual fighting.

—C. C. Hunt, Iowa.